

Academic success a means of honoring his family in Korea

Name: Richard Lim
High school: Duxbury High School
Hometown: Duxbury
Destination: Harvard College
Major: Government, economics, or computer science

After living in New Jersey his entire life, Richard, now 17, moved with his parents to their native Korea in 1990. He was in fourth grade.

Then, two years later, Richard and his brother Robert, were sent back from Korea to the United States to live with their sister, Soo Jin Lim, and her husband, Matthew Schortmann, in Duxbury. Their parents made the difficult decision to separate the family because they wanted a better education for their children. Their father, Yong Sup Lim, and mother, Jung Ja Lim, stayed behind in Pusan, on the southeastern coast of Korea.

"I studied hard because that was one way of communicating with my parents that I was doing all right in Duxbury far away from them," says Richard, who has another adult sister, Linda Lim, living in California.

Tragically, many miles away from him, Richard's mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer while he was in eighth grade. She fought the disease for three years before passing away last year. While she was ill, Richard began missing classes because he and his family shuttled back and forth to Korea to tend to her and to comfort his father.

"In several instances we had to rush back to Korea," Richard says. "But we made sure that education was number one. It was the second thing next to family. We made it a priority to stay on top



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO: SUZANNE KREITER

of homework."

And stay on top he did. Despite missing a lot of classes and suffering the loss of his mother, he is one of the top three students in his Duxbury High graduating class. He is headed to Harvard this fall, where his brother, now 18, already is enrolled. Eventually, he would like to pursue a career in business with an emphasis on computers.

But before that, he plans to visit his father in Korea, as he does each summer.

In high school, Richard has participated in many community service projects as president of the National Honor Society. Last Halloween, honor society members hosted a party for young children and, for Thanksgiving, they put together food baskets for the needy.

Richard is also on the yearbook committee and taking advanced placement classes. For his advanced placement studio art project, he created a series of 16 mixed-media self-portraits depicting his emotional experiences before, during, and after his mother's death.

"It was a way of expressing what I was going through," he says.